Hiring of Russian aircraft by Indian Airlines

28. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total expenditure incurred by Indian Airlines on hiring the Russian Aircrafts TU-154; and

(b) how many of these aircrafts were hired and for how many days?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines hired four TU-154 aircraft from M/s. Uzbekistan Airways. Two of them were put into operation on 15th December, 1992 and one each on 19th December, 1992 and 1st January, 1993, Further, three TU-154M aircraft were leased from M/s. Balkan Bulgarian Airlines for operations from 8th January 1993. The services operated by leased aircraft were however discontinued from 9th January, 1993. An expenditure of Rs. 4.90 crores has been incurred by Indian Airlines towards lease charges, positioning/re-postioning of aircraft, crew hotel accommodatoin and allowances etc.

Settlement of Pilot's strike

29. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that management of the Indian Airlines was not been taken into confidence in the recent settlement of the pilots' strike;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the additional financial commitment made by the management in conceding the demands of the pilots; and

(d) what measures Government propose to take to meet this additional financial commitment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The pilots have withdrawn their strike unconditionally.

Development of tourism as an industry

30. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States in the country have agreed to treat tourism as an Industry;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether these States are providing necessary facilities and infrastructure for tourism as are given to the industry;

(d) whether Government have also recognised tourism as an Industry at the national level; and

(c) if so, what action Government are taking to develop tourism on the lines of Industry?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following States/Union Territories have declared tourism as an Industry:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Bihar
5. Goa
6. Gujarat
7. Haryana
8. Himachal Pradesh
9. Karnataka
10. Kerala
11. Madhya Pradesh
12. Maharashtra
13. Manipur
14. Meghalaya
15. Tamil Nadu